(b) if so, whether this matter has been discussed with China; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (c) Yes. India has consistently highlighted to the international community the menace of global terrorism and the imperative of effective international action to combat it. This issue has been discussed with a number of countries including China. Many countries share India's perspective and are supportive of India's efforts.

PM's Visit to Europe

499. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what significant deliberations took place between the various Heads of the Countries during the Prime Minister's recent trip to Europe to improve India's point of view on the Kashmir issue with Pakistan; and

(b) what follow up action is being taken by Government on Prime Minister's point of view that trade barriers between the Countries be removed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) During Prime Minister's visit to Germany, St. Petersburg and Evian from 27 May—3 June, 2003 his interlocutors were sensitized to our concerns on the need for an immediate cessation of cross border terrorism. There was unanimous appreciation for Prime Minister's peace initiative.

(b) The issue of elimination of trade barriers between countries has been taken up by India in various fora, including of G8 Enlarged Dialogue in Evian.

Membership of UN Security Council

500. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Great Britain have declared their unequivocal support for India's claim for permanent Membership of the expanded United Nations Security Council;

(b) the other countries who are staking their claim for a permanent seat in the expanded Security Council;

(c) what would be the total Membership of the expanded Security Council; and

(d) What steps India contemplate to achieve their goal of permanent membership of the Security Council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) There are other contenders for permanent membership of the Security Council but, with countries unable to agree on the criteria or the methodology for expansion, it is difficult, at this stage, to speculate on the total membership of an enlarged Security Council.

(d) After making known our candidature for the permanent membership in 1994, we have pursued this objective at each session of the UN General Assembly, in the Working Group set up within the UN to discuss the issue and in our bilateral interactions with other UN members. Several countries, including many of the Parmanent Members, have supported India's candidature. India will continue its efforts to secure wide support.

Indian Fishermen in Pakistani Jails

501. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian fishing boats were captured in the Kutch sea by the Pakistani Marine guard recently;

(b) if so, whether according to the latest count, 319 Indian fishermen are languishing in Pakistani jails and 60 fishing boats, each worth Rs. 15 lakh are in their custody; and

(c) the details of efforts Government propose to make in order to bring the captured fishermen to their home land?